

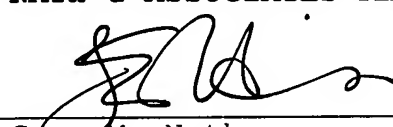
REMARKS

The above amendments have been made to remove multiple dependencies from the claims and to conform them to U.S. practice. No new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENT A

Claims

- 1.(original) A polymeric compound composed of linear polymer chains having the general formula



in which R is a hydrocarbon group, and X is a group having at least one heteroatom, where the linear polymer chains are crosslinked together via linking groups.

2. (original) The polymeric compound as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is a substantially insoluble, swellable resin.
3. (currently amended) The polymeric compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the linking groups crosslink the linear polymer chains via their heteroatoms.
4. (currently amended) The polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that only some, preferably less than 30%, more preferably less than 15%, in particular about 12%, of the heteroatoms are connected to linking groups, and most of the remaining heteroatoms are available for further derivatizations.
5. (currently amended) The polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized

in that R is an alkyl group, preferably a C₁-C₆-alkyl group, in particular a linear alkyl group.

6. (currently amended) The polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that R is an ethylene group.
7. (currently amended) The polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that X is selected from the group consisting of NH, N-R¹, CH-NH₂, CH-OH, CH-R²-OH, in particular NH, in which R¹ and R² are selected from the group consisting of alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl and benzyl.
8. (currently amended) The polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, characterized in that X is selected from the group consisting of N⁺-R¹R², O, S, CH-R²-NH₂, CH-SH, CH-R²-SH, in which R¹ and R² are selected from the group consisting of alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl and benzyl.
9. (currently amended) The polymeric compound as claimed in ~~either of claims 7 or 8~~ claim 7, characterized in that R² is a C₁-C₆-alkyl group, preferably a methylene group.
10. (currently amended) The polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the polymer chains are polyethyleneimine chains.
11. (currently amended) The polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, characterized in that the polymer chains are polyvinylamine chains.

12. (currently amended) The polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the linking groups are derived from at least one compound selected from the group consisting of polyaldehydes, activated polycarboxylic acids, isocyanates, isothiocyanates, dihalides, epoxides, ketenes and epichlorohydrin.
13. (original) The polymeric compound as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the linking groups are derived from at least one polyaldehyde, preferably from at least one aromatic polyaldehyde.
14. (currently amended) The polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the linking groups are derived from a dialdehyde, preferably from an aromatic dialdehyde, in particular from terephthalaldehyde.
15. (currently amended) The polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that it is composed of linear polyethyleneimine crosslinked with terephthalaldehyde.
16. (original) The polymeric compound as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the linking groups are derived from at least one dihalide, preferably from a dihalide of the group 1,4-dibromomethylbenzene, 1,4-dichloromethylbenzene, 1,6-dibromo(dichloro)hexane, and 1,7-dibromo(dichloro)heptane.
17. (currently amended) The polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized

in that it has a loading with amino functionalities of about 10 to about 25 mmol/g, preferably about 15 mmol/g.

18. (currently amended) The polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that it is in the form of resin micropellets.
19. (currently amended) The use of a polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 for solid phase synthesis.
20. (original) The use as claimed in claim 19 for synthesizing peptides and proteins.
21. (original) The use as claimed in claim 19 for synthesizing heterocycles.
22. (currently amended) The use of a polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1 for polymer-assisted synthesis in solution.
23. (original) The use as claimed in claim 22 for preparing polymeric reagents.
24. (original) The use as claimed in claim 22 for preparing an ion exchanger.
25. (currently amended) The use of a polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1 for immobilizing enzymes.
26. (currently amended) The use of a polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1 for

immobilizing substrates which are converted with an enzyme.

27. (currently amended) The use of a polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1 as carrier for pharmacological active ingredients.
28. (currently amended) The use of a polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1 for inducing an immune response.
29. (currently amended) The use of a polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1 as scavenger of electrophiles, in particular of acid chlorides and isocyanates.
30. (currently amended) A method for solid phase synthesis, characterized in that a polymeric compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1 is provided with a suitable linker, and then the compound to be synthesized is assembled stepwise on this linker.